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S H O C H I K U

FUTASU ~~CHOMO~~ KURUMA NIKKI, SUMOMA

"THE TALE OF TWO WRESTLERS"

WRITTEN BY TAKEDA IZUMO

TO BE PERFORMED AT THE

BY ICHIKAWA OMEZO'S TROUPE

C.C.D. J-2033

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SYNOPSIS:

Yamazaki Yogoro was the son of a rice-dealer, Yojihei.

One day, the young man came to see wrestling, accompanied by a service-girl, Azuma, whom he loved very much. His father was a very stingy man. So he was taken back home, as he was seen to give presents to his favourite wrestler. The young wrestler, Hanaregoma Chikichi defeated Nuregami Chogoro in the wrestling arena and retired home triumphantly. But the latter implored Chokichi to arrange the matter of redeeming Azuma in favour of Yogoro who was the patron of Nuregami, saying that Nuregami was defeated by Chokichi deliberately in order to ask his help on the matter. But Chokichi did not concede to him. So both the wrestlers were going to have a quarrel, but after a few moments' deliberation, they decided not to fight that day and parted.

CHARACTERS:

Nuregami Chogoro

Hanarekoma Chokichi

Yamazakiya Yojibei

Yamazakiya Yogoro

Mihara Ariemon

Hiracka Kyozaemon

Servant Kyuzo

Hair-dresser, Mansuke

Servant, Shohachi

" Kisuke

" Tasuke

Young man

Merchants

Spectators of wrestling

Fujiya Azuma

Servant, Zenta

In the middle of the platform is a palisade for wrestling, in front of which are hung ~~signs~~ signs and informations for programs of wrestling matches. At the end of the platform is set a small tea-house with a few chairs in front of it.

Maid-Servant A: Well, Azuma. Don't be so much irritated.

Maid. B: Be settled, my dear.

Azuma: How can I be settled? Where is he?

I've been waiting for him for a long time.

Maid B: You are jealous as usual.

Maid A: I wish the young master will come soon.

Azuma: I'll go and ask Yamazaki-ya where he is.

Maid C: Don't be impatient. Wait for him here, Mistress.

(An apprentice-boy comes in.)

Boy: Oh, Mistress! Are you here?

Azuma: You are a boy of Yamazaki-ya, aren't you?

Is the young master in the sumo wrestling stand?

Boy: Yes, he ordered me to tell you that today's wrestling match is the combat of Nuregami and Hamaregoma, and as he would come soon after the match was finished, you had to go to Kawakaji.

Azuma: Did he say so? Then, I'm ~~am~~ quite settled at last.

I'll wait for him there. Be sure that he may come without fail.

Boy: But he told me to go with you.

Maid: Then let's go to Kawakaji at once.

Azuma: Let's go.

(They exit)

Spectators: Hullah!

Caller: This is the match between Nuregami Chogoro and
Hanaregoma Chokichi!

(Drumming and cheers)

People: Chokichi has won! Chokichi has won!

(Drumming. The two samurai, Kyozaemon and Ariemon
Come out of the wrestling house. Hanaregoma Chokichi,
too, comes out.)

People: Chokichi has won! Chokichi has won!

Merchant: I congratulate you, Chokichi! Let's give cheers
for him!

All: Yes, let's!

Hanaregoma: Thank you very much.

Ariemon: How strong you are, Chokichi! At first, we were afraid,
lest you should be defeated. But after you challenged
the enemy with your left hand, the match was on your
favour. How strong you are!

Kyozaemon: We are proud of you, Chokichi.

Hanaregoma: Thank you, sir. It was lucky for me that I
could win the victory against the undaunted rival,
Nuregami Chogoro, who has come to eminence nowadays.
You are the son of a rice-dealer in Daihoji. But you
are so strong that the lord particularly favoured you
and promoted you to the chief wrestler of the Eastern

Ari: Therefore, it's by the favour of the lord that you were appointed the chief wrestler at this tournament. You have won from the beginning of this tournament and today, on the seventh day, while you were fighting against Nuregami, you were in great anxiety lest you should be defeated.

Kyo: The lord ordered many times that you should fight at the cost of your life. But since you have won the victory over Nuregami. There is no rival that you should be afraid of. We sent the messengers for the presents to you.

Ari: You need not to be anxious about them. Come, Chokichi. Change your dress and be fine.

Cho: Thank you, sir.

Kyo: By the way, Chokichi, as I have asked for you, I leave the matter of redeeming Azuma to you. Be sure to arrange the matter for our favour.

Cho: Be at ease, sir. Since I owe you very much, I'll try my best for you.

Ari: I'm glad to hear it. Let's go to the restaurant beyond the bridge and drink in honor of your success.

Cho: Let's go together.
(Yogoro comes out.)

Yo: What! The strongest man will sometimes miss.

ve won over him, there is no

an in

(Tears comes into his eyes, when Nuregami Chogoro comes out. He is a fine-looking wrestler.)

Yogoro: Oh, Chogoro, I've been waiting for you, Just come here, I say.

Nuregami: Are you here, sir?

Yogoro: Come here. What's the ~~mat~~ matter with you today? Why did you wrestle in that way? On my way from Shincho yesterday, I heard palanquin-bearers speaking, "Tomorrow Nuregami and Hanaregoma will fight against each other. It may be a very interesting match. Nuregami is the first class wrestler, while Hanaregoma is one coming into eminence nowadays." They talked much about you. As I know very well about you, I thought that you would throw away your enemy at one grip on the arena, or else you would throw him down there, after teasing as if you would have handled your pupil. But contrary to my expectation, you were defeated. I cried in the stand, because I was quite ashamed of you.

Nure: It depends on lot, whether I am defeated or not. Don't be so much disappointed. I'll arrange the matter. Now, master of the tea-house, may I ask you something to do for me?

r: All right is it?

I - now. Will you please ask
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Yogoro: I'm a little settled as you said so Ariemon and Kyozaemon praised Hanaregoma so much that I felt resentful. I was so irritated that I intended to abuse them saying all I had had in my mind. But there is no fighting against such odds. My lover Azuma will be bought out by them. Oh, what shall we do?

Nure: Don't be anxious. As I'll arrange the matter concerning Azuma in favour of you, don't be anxious, sir.

Yo: Are you sure?

Nure: Yes, I'm sure I can, so be settled.

Master: I've come back, sir. Hanaregoma said, "Go ahead, as I'll go afterward.

Nure: Much obliged to you. Now, young master, don't be so much discouraged, but go to drink to the restaurant.

Yo: I'll go. Come with me, will you?

Nure: As I must wait for him, go first.

Yo: Yes, I will. Are you sure to arrange the matter about Azuma?

Nure: All right. Don't be anxious about it.

Yo: Then I'll go first and invite many service-girls for you. So don't fail to come to me.

Nure: All right, sir.

I put trust in him. My father was angry with me and threatened to disown me from the house if I did not. I was dismissed from the house.

Nure: I say, be settled, sir. Now, master, send him off to the restaurant.

Master: All right, sir.

Nure: Now young master, go with him, please.

Yo: That'll do. Come with me at once.

Master: Yes, I will

Yo: You said a little time before, that you liked Nuregami, didn't you?

Master: Yes, of course. I thank him very much, for it's through his favour that I can do good business.

Yo: Is that so? I'm glad to hear it. Naregami is our old friend. Please patronize him. This is my little tip for you.

Master: Thank you, sir. Though I favour him very much, I can't offer my present to him, like you. I can't do anything but praise him.

Yo: No, it's not so. Only those who give presents are not patrons. When he goes into the wrestling-arena, he may be encouraged if you call out to him, "Excellent!" or/ "great wrestler!" This is the same in the case of players. Please patronize him.

Master: I used to go to see him whenever he appears in the arena. There is no wrestler equal to him in every point. No, no! He is quite different from the others. Oh, young master, you have dropped your hood'

Yo: Now. let us go.

(They exit. "uregami looks at them go.)

Nure: Now, Kan-nuki, what are you doing?

(Kan-nuki, his pupil come out of the door.)

Kan-nuki: What is the matter, boss?

Nure: Go and tell Hanaregoma to come here.

Kan: Yes, all right. Let me see. What is he thinking?

Today our boss was taken out of the arena by Hanaregoma.

Did he send for him in order to become his disciple or to begin intercourse with him. I can't make it clear.

Nure: Why do don't you go?

Kan: I'm just thinking about the technic to use tomorrow at the arena tomorrow. By any means, our boss is ---

Nure: Are you still there?

Kan: Yes, I'll go. But our boss is much more ---.

Nure: Much more what?

Kan: Well, not strong. Not at all --- (He exits)

Nure: It's true Yogoro is a young man, but he is such a weak man unable to bear anything that I can guess how the old master is worrying about him. In this case, a son is nothing but an encumbrance to his father. I wish Chokichi will come soon.

(Hanaregoma -- back, looking for someone)

Hanaregoma: Ar

Oh

Hana: Then, excuse me. (He sits down) And what's the business?

Nure: I have heard about you many times. At today's match,
You were very clever at your technic of your wrestling.

Hana: Is that what you wanted to talk with me?

Nure: No, it's about your patron who was in the stand today
that I want to talk.

Hana: Oh, he is a samurai in Kuramae. He has patronized me.
What did he do to you?

Nure: Nothing. But the other day, he attempted to buy
out Azuma of Fujiya in Ohincho. But Azuma's real
lover is a young son of my friend's Yogor, He is still
a dependant of his father and cannot make money
to seoure his lover. But in several days, the money will
be arranged. However, he is very anxious, lest she should
be bought out by the samurai during the time.
He said, "Now, Nuregami, if she were bought out by
my rival, I can't bear with it. So ask him to give
her up. " He is like a grown-up child. But as I am not
acquainted with the samurai, I'm quite at loss, on
hearing his request. I thought of you now, who are
of the same country with me and a young man like me.
Will you please withdraw his plan concerning Azuma?

Hana: Hum! Is the young man Yogoro of Yamazaki-y?

Nure: Indeed

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think that I did not undertake his request because I was afraid of Nuregama. So I made up my mind to contend with you concerning the matter over Azuma's ransom.

Nure: I could not dare to plead you about the matter. But it happened that you became my rival today. So taking advantage of this chance, I grappled with you and I was -----.

Hana: What did you say? Were you deliberately defeated by me, so that you might entreat me about the matter?

Nure: No, it's not so.

Hana: Yes, you were.

Nure: Stop, as someone may hear you speak.

Hana: Yes, you were deliberately defeated. I thought that you might throw me down, after teasing me in the wrestling arena, because I'm weak while you are a famous strong wrestler. I planned to bite you if you held me with your left hand. But unexpectedly you were pushed back by me and the umpire held up the fan of victory over me. I felt rather strange. But you are a mean fellow to say your intention now. If you have something to ask for me, why didn't you say it openly? I'm not a man to concede to your deliberate defeat.

Nure: Don't say in such an angry tone. This is a matter between Yagoro and your samurai. We should not quarrel with each other before

avoid

Hana: I don't like such cunning measures. Let's play a fair play.

Nure: You speak too much. I am pleasing you for the sake of Yogoro, at the cost of my life.

Hana: Who knows your devotion? Not I.

Nure: As you don't know about it, I've explained it now. Can't you understand me? But I ask for you no more. It's of no use to speak to you.

Hana: Hereafter I will get in your way, regardless of anything.

Nure: Though there are many samurais on your side, I don't mind. You can't win over me so easily.

Hana: I'm an undaunted horse which has never known his riders. Shall I be crushed down by you?

Nure: Oh, come on!

(They look at each other angrily, with a tea-cup in their hand.)

Nure: Now, Chokichi, look at this cup. If the matter is settled smoothly like this cup, it's lucky. But if it's broken like this ----.

(He crushes the cup into pieces within his hand.)

Hana: If it's broken like this ----

(He can't crush it with his hand, so breaks it with his sword.)

Chokichi!

Yogoro!

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